

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A control communication method for a satellite communication system having a central earth station and a plurality of remote earth stations linked to the central earth station through at least one satellite in orbit above the earth, the method comprising:

synchronizing a timing in the central earth station and the plurality of remote earth stations such that a predetermined control time period having a plurality of distinct presequential time slots is synchronized among the central earth station and the remote earth stations;

initiating from a respective remote earth station, and completing, a transmission of control information through the satellite to the central earth station only during a respective one or more of the time slots assigned to the respective earth station;

receiving the transmission at the central earth station; and

sending from the central earth station, in response to the received transmission, a separate transmission of data through the satellite to the remote earth station.

2-28. (canceled).

29. (original): A satellite communication system providing real-time acquisition and transmission of high bandwidth data, comprising:

an information resource providing a high bandwidth transmission;

a satellite;

a central earth station;

a remote earth station in communication with the central earth station through the satellite to transmit control information on a first transmission path through the satellite only during a predetermined periodic time slot assigned to the remote earth station; and

wherein the central earth station is connected to the information resource to receive the high bandwidth transmission on a second transmission path through the satellite to the remote earth station in response to the control information transmitted by the remote earth station.

30. (canceled).

31. (original): A satellite communication system as defined in claim 29, wherein the remote earth station is adapted to communicate information to the central earth station on a transmission path different from the first transmission path.

32. (original): A satellite transmission communication system as defined in claim 29, wherein the central earth station is adapted to send via the Internet information responsive to real-time event information received by the central earth station from the remote earth station.

33. (new): A control communication method for a satellite communication system having a central earth station and a plurality of remote earth stations linked to the central earth station through at least one satellite in orbit above the earth, the method comprising:

synchronizing a timing in the central earth station and the plurality of remote earth stations such that a predetermined control time period having a plurality of distinct presequential time slots is synchronized among the central earth station and the remote earth stations;

initiating from a respective remote earth station, and completing, a transmission of control information through the satellite to the central earth station via a first transmission path and only via a respective one or more of the time slots assigned to the respective earth station;

receiving the control information transmitted via the first transmission path at the central earth station; and

sending from the central earth station, in response to the received control information, a separate transmission of data through the satellite to the remote earth station on a second transmission path separate from said first communication path.